

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 06507 081849Z

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ACTION CU-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1489

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 6507

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, GE

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL LESSING CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 233182

1. EMBASSY HAS NOT HAD PRIOR CONTACT WITH PROFESSOR HAROLD SCHULTZE OF THE PROTESTANT SEMINARY IN MAGDEBURG. MOREOVER, WE ARE SOMEWHAT RELUCTANT TO APPROACH HIM RE ATTENDANCE AT THE CONFERENCE THROUGH A PARTIAL EMBASSY GRANT DUE TO HIS VULNERABLE POSITION. HE WOULD BE THE FIRST EMBASSY SPONSORED GRANTEE FROM THE GDR AND SINCE GDR OFFICIALS WOULD NECESSARILY BECOME INVOLVED IN THE DECISION OF WHETHER HE SHOULD GO, THE CHOICE OF A PROFESSOR AT A RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION AS A FIRST EFFORT MIGHT WELL AROUSE UNNECESSARY

SUSPICION AS TO OUR INTENT IN PROMOTING EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES.

2. CONSEQUENTLY, THE EMBASSY RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDES THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO INAUGURATE OUR PROGRAM OF PARTIAL GRANTS WITH A CANDIDATE

OF LESSA CONTROVERSIAL POTENTIAL.

3. IF THE GRANT COULD BE EXTENDED THROUGH THE CONFERENCE SPONSORS, THE SITUATION WOULD BE DIFFERENT, SINCE A NUMBER OF GDR CITIZENS, INCLUDING SOME FROM THE CHURCH, HAVE BEEN IN THE U.S. ON PRIVATE INVITATIONS. COOPER

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